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## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, November 29, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord most holy, who sustains us each day, thank You for the opportunity to serve You and country.

Empower our lawmakers to serve You with strength and courage, refusing to deviate from the path of integrity. Lord, remind them of the importance of seeking Your wisdom. As You give them an awareness of Your abiding presence, supply their needs according to Your celestial riches. Use them to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

Lord, make each of us instruments of Your peace. Use us to carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Camille L. Velez-Rive, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, the House Democratic caucus, of which we were once both Members, will make a momentous and potentially historic decision: selecting the next generation of leaders that will propel House Democrats forward in the 118th Congress.

Every time the caucus comes together to choose its leaders, it is a big

deal, but today's gathering is unlike any we have seen before. For one, it signals the end of a magnificent era, as my dear friend Speaker NANCY PELOSI has chosen to step down from leadership. We will never see someone like Speaker PELOSI ever again in our lifetime.

But her potential successor will be history-making in its own right. After today's vote, it is largely expected that the new House Democratic leader will be my friend and fellow Brooklynite HAKEEM JEFFRIES. HAKEEM JEFFRIES' elevation as House Democratic leader is a turning point in the history of the U.S. Congress. Never before has an African-American leader, or any leader of color, held the top position for either party in either Chamber.

With yesterday's vote on Respect for Marriage and today's vote for House Democratic leader, our representative democracy continues to march forward toward its promise of equality and full representation for all Americans.

Now, I have known HAKEEM JEFFRIES for a long time, since before the days he was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 2006. When I first met him, I thought the same thing I thought when I first met Speaker PELOSI: Here is someone who has it all.

We have taken similar roles in our lifetimes. We both grew up in Brooklyn, where I was the son of an exterminator and he was the son of a social worker. We both went to New York City public schools and both served in the New York State Assembly before coming to Congress.

It is not surprising that House Democrats are turning to someone from Brooklyn to lead the way next year because, when you are from Brooklyn, you learn quickly traits like persistence and serious mettle. It is a crowded place and a diverse place. You learn how to work with all kinds of different people. You learn how to stand your

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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